Today's News - Tuesday, March 24, 2009

- April is American City Quality Month to move towards a better coordinated intergovernmental and private sector approach and commitment to better quality city planning and redevelopment (public encouraged to join the discussion - what a concept!).

- Economy vs. environment: "the world's principal source of man-made greenhouse gases has always been prosperity" (a bright spot in hard times?).

- A bureaucratic nightmare (we kid you not) for two preservation architects trying to restore a New Orleans home for low-income buyers.

- Q&A with Whitechapel Gallery director: she's glad she decided to spend £900,000. "It was absolutely irresistible really." -- Potts, Sulman and Brandes Gratz -- Anne Van Ingen; Wes Haynes - PLANetizen

- Rykwert on the "great chainsaw massacre" of London's urban tree canopy: wake up architects! "Tree husbandry is a skill we still need to learn." By Joseph Rykwert - Chicago Tribune

- Gallagher gives thumbs-up to Cloepfil's University of Michigan Museum of Art expansion: the "new wing offers the best of what modernism is supposed to offer" (great slide show).

- Calls for entries: Architecture for Humanity's 2009 Open Architecture Challenge: Classroom: winning school will receive up to $50,000 for classroom improvements as well as design support.

- Dangerous building practices in Uganda: unregistered architects designing buildings and qualified architects signing off on dangerous drawings without reviewing.

- An ambitious plan to fully realize Utzon's vision for the Sydney Opera House: is it worth $1 billion? (who knows - the plan is still under wraps).

- Q&A with McDonough re: Cradle to Cradle thinking and the role that Wal-Mart may play in leading the charge.

- Economy vs. Environment: "...the world's principal source of man-made greenhouse gases has always been prosperity. The recession makes that relationship easy to see: shuttered factories don't spew carbon dioxide; the unemployed drive fewer miles and turn down their furnaces, air-conditioners,..." -- New Yorker

- 1970s architecture: what would you save from the decade style forgot? The Twentieth Century Society is campaigning to raise awareness of the 1970s architecture...Some people, I bet, would rather consign the whole decade to the dustbin...My childhood needs saving!" By Tom Dyckhoff -- Richard Rogers; Norman Foster; Aldington and Craig; Benson & Forsyth; Arne Jacobsen - The Times (UK)

- Q&A with McDonough re: Cradle to Cradle thinking and the role that Wal-Mart may play in leading the charge.

- Bringing Green Design to the Mainstream: Joel Makower sits down with Bill McDonough...to talk about green product design, Cradle to Cradle thinking, and the role that Wal-Mart may play in leading the charge. - GreenerBiz.com

- High price of the hidden genius within: ...the most ambitious cultural investment in the state since work started on the Sydney Opera House 50 years ago...plan to fully realise Joern Utzon's vision for the building...involves nothing less than a complete rebuilding of the problematic Opera Theatre... -- Alberto Catalano - The Daily Star (Lebanon)

- Italian architect to design Beirut's Arts and Culture House: ..."the first component for an urban strategy [that] could propel Beirut back into the group of important cultural ports"... -- The Architects' Journal (UK)

- Architects named for $500 million Union Station redevelopment: ..."envisions the new buildings as being contemporary, but complementing the historic building, and energy efficient." -- Anderson Mason Dale; Semple Brown Design - Denver Business Journal

- An inviting space inside and out at University of Michigan's expanded Museum of Art: ..."new wing offers the best of what modernism is supposed to offer...will hardly still the debate over the role of museum design. But it should nudge that debate in the right direction. UMMA's achievement demonstrates that good museum architecture should be visually delightful. By John Gallagher -- Clopeth/Allied Works Architecture [slide show, links] - Detroit Free Press

- The Chicago river walk: An audacious dream about to take a big step forward...a major upgrade to the public realm...promises to turn the river from a natural feature that divides downtown into a seam that unites it. By Blair Kamin - Chicago Tribune

- Call for entries: 2009 Open Architecture Challenge: Classroom: winning school will receive up to $50,000 for classroom improvements as well as design support.

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construction and upgrading, winning designer will receive a grant of $5,000 to help them do it; registration deadline: May 4 - Architecture for Humanity

Call for entries: "City of Dreams" Mini Golf Course: Design and construct a single hole for mini golf course on Governors Island; deadline: March 31 - FIGMENT / Governors Island Preservation and Education Corporation (GIPEC)

Call for entries deadline extension: Temporary Outdoor Gallery Space 2 (TOGS 2) International Ideas Competition; new registration deadline: March 30 - Art Alliance Austin/AIA New York Chapter

When Your New Job is to Find Your Next Job: Some practical suggestions for opening new doors of opportunities in difficult times. By Marianne Pearson - ArchNewsNow

-- Kengo Kuma & Associates: Shiseikan, Kyoto University of Art and Design, Kyoto, Japan
-- Splitterwerk: Frog Queen, Graz, Austria

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